

Abstract:

A method and apparatus for compressing positioning a
5 patient's breast when using X-ray mammography machine to take an
image wherein said machine has a compression paddle and a bucky.
An inflatable pad is mounted on the bucky as an interface between
the bucky and a patient's breast. The method includes an initial
step wherein the compression paddle is moved downwardly to
10 provide compression forces on the breast. The movement of the
compression paddle is stopped at a position where less than the
full desired compression of the breast is attained. Next, the
inflatable pad is inflated and the pad is expanded upwardly
against the breast obtain the full desired compression. The
15 movement of the pad functions to distribute and balance the
compression and shear forces applied to the breast.